Claims 1 – 16

1. A method of monitoring the amount of fluid in a fluid container, comprising the following steps:

   determining, at a first moment in time, the amount of fluid contained in the fluid container, for which purpose information provided on the fluid container is read out;

   determining, at a second moment in time, the amount of fluid that has been removed from the fluid container between said first and second moments in time, and storing at least one quantity which is representative of the amount of fluid contained in the fluid container at said second moment in time.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the determination of the amount of fluid contained in the fluid container at the first moment in time comprises the readout of an information storage means.

3. A method according to one of the preceding claims, comprising:

   indicating the at least one quantity which is representative of the amount of fluid in the fluid container.

4. A method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one quantity comprises the residual amount of fluid in the fluid container and/or the residual operating time of a device operated with said fluid and/or the number of operations which can still be carried out with said residual amount of fluid.

5. A method according to one of the preceding claims, comprising:

   executing safety measures, if said at least one representative quantity falls below or exceeds at least one predetermined value and/or if the information provided on the fluid con-

tainer cannot be read out and/or if no information is provided on the fluid container and/or if it is not possible to read from and/or write to the information storage means.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said safety measures comprise sending an acoustic and/or optical signal and/or blocking the withdrawal of fluid.

7. A method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the readout and/or storing of information causes irreversible changes in the information storage means.

8. A fluid container comprising:

an information storage means.

9. A fluid container according to claim 8, comprising:

an encoded means.

10. A fluid container according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the storage of information in the information storage means of the fluid container causes irreversible changes in said information storage means.

11. A fluid container according to claim 10, wherein the information storage means comprises an arrangement of conductor tracks, the information being stored in said arrangement of intact or defective conductor tracks.

12. A fluid container according to one of the claims 8 to 11, wherein the information storage means comprises an electric and/or magnetic data memory.

13. A fluid container according to claim 12, wherein the information storage means comprises an EEPROM-chip and/or a magnetic foil.

14. A fluid withdrawal system for use in a fluid container according to one of the claims 8 to 13, comprising:

a fluid withdrawal means that is adapted to have the fluid container connected thereto,

a control unit,

a read/write unit for reading information from the information storage means of the fluid container.

15. A fluid withdrawal system according to claim 14, wherein the read/write unit is additionally implemented such that the information storage means of the fluid container can be written to by said read/write unit.

16. A fluid withdrawal system according to claim 14 or 15, comprising:

an information storage means.